

Message Text

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TO AMEMBASSY SOFIA

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TAGS: OEXC, PFOR, OSCI, BU

SUBJECT: BULGARIANS ALLEGE U.S.-BULGARIAN COOPERATION IN
SPACE RESEARCH

REF: FBIS OF JULY 20, 1976

1. A MONITORED JULY 19 ENGLISH-LANGUAGE BROADCAST FROM BULGARIA CONTAINED THE FOLLOWING STATEMENT "THE FIRST BULGARIAN-US MEETING FOR JOINT SPACE STUDIES WAS HELD IN DALLAS RECENTLY. IT WAS DECIDED THERE THAT THE TWO SIDES SHOULD EXCHANGE DATA AND RESULTS, WORK JOINTLY ON SOME TOPICAL PROBLEMS IN THE PHYSICS OF THE HIGH ATMOSPHERE AND EXCHANGE EXPERTS." IN CONTEXT WITH THE REST OF THE ARTICLE, THIS STRONGLY SUGGESTS THAT U.S. GOVERNMENT IS THE SPONSOR OF AN IMPORTANT RESEARCH PROGRAM.

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2. DEPARTMENT INQUIRIES REVEAL, TO THE CONTRARY, THAT NO SUCH GOVERNMENT COOPERATION HAS BEEN DISCUSSED. INDEED, THE ONLY DALLAS MEETING WE HAVE LEARNED OF WAS BETWEEN A BULGARIAN SCIENTIST INVOLVED IN THE INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL OF SCIENTIFIC UNIONS' COSPAR AND A PROFESSOR WILLIAM HANSON, DIRECTOR OF THE CENTER FOR SPACE SCIENCE AT THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS. REPORTEDLY THE SCIENTIST, KUTYEV

(PHONETIC), HAD ACCOMPAINED PROF. K. SERAFIMOV, BULGARIA'S REPRESENTATIVE IN COSPAR, TO A COSPAR MEETING IN PHILADELPHIA AND SUBSEQUENTLY WENT TO DALLAS.

3. SINCE THE EMBASSY HAS CONTACT WITH BULGARIAN OFFICIALS ACTIVE IN COSPAR YOU SHOULD INFORM THEM THAT YOU ARE NOT AWARE THAT ANY USG-GOB SPACE RESEARCH PROGRAM EXISTS. YOU SHOULD ALSO ASK WITH WHICH US ORGANIZATION GOB BELIEVES IT IS COOPERATING. KISSINGER

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